

regret that I am unable to join you today. While I am not able to greet you in person, I am very much with you in spirit and hail this Conference as the moment when Maryland begins its first great step toward crime prevention.

There is a definite difference between the control of crime and its prevention. Crime control is primarily a responsibility of police professionals. Crime prevention depends on the cooperation of the private citizen. To control crime requires good planning, good equipment and good police personnel. To prevent crime is infinitely more difficult for it requires improvements in both attitude and environment.

Effective law enforcement depends on the cooperative efforts of police, prosecutors, judges, prison and parole board administrators. Each is a link in a single chain and no chain is stronger than its weakest link. Over the past two years, this administration has been dedicated to strengthening and perfecting that chain. We have provided the first system of State financial aid to local law enforcement agencies in the entire nation. Under the direction of a new Commissioner of Corrections, we are launching a systematic reform within our State prisons. Maryland's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice has developed a comprehensive, state-wide crime control plan which may well become the model for all the forty-nine other states to follow. These are but the highlights of our progress; only time prevents me from citing the many other substantial steps forward.

Yet all this action goes to point up one fact — government cannot wage the war on crime alone. We do not live in a vacuum. We cannot work in a vacuum. Our success depends on the good will and imaginative cooperation of the private sector. The citizen and not the policeman must ultimately create the atmosphere most conducive to crime prevention.

This is why all of you have been invited here today. You are representatives from the broad spectrum of Maryland leadership. Your interest and ability in building a better community are recognized and appreciated. We have asked you here to divert some of your time and talent to the development of a crime prevention program.

Right now the problems surrounding the escalating crime rate appear infinite, while the public resources to wage a war against crime are clearly finite. By enlisting you, we expand our resources and extend our horizons. With your aid, we may take that great step for-